

May 17, 2026

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing
***Romans: For Today's World* –Chapter 8:1-39**

The Unstoppable Love of God:
The Unshakable Foundation of Faith

Paul's letter to the Romans, written around A.D. 57 while he was in the city of Corinth, Greece. It was written to a diverse group of Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome, addresses the challenges of unity and faithfulness in a multicultural, often hostile environment. The Letter to the Romans centers on humanity's universal need for salvation, justification by faith in Jesus Christ, the transformative power of grace, emphasizes unity between Jewish and Gentile believers and the call to live by the Spirit. "*Romans For Today's World*" highlights how these foundational truths call the modern church to embrace grace, pursue righteousness, break down barriers of division, and embody Christlike love and service in a complex world. In other words, Romans is a life changing, purpose directing book that hopefully will bring a great effect upon us today in 2026.

In today's shifting, unsettled environment, let me offer you an "Anchor for your Soul" in the greatest assurance the gospel offers: The unstoppable love of God—your unshakable foundation of faith. Romans 8 is not just a chapter; it's a lifeline for anxious, weary, and doubting hearts. It's the crescendo of Paul's message—where guilt gives way to grace, fear gives way to freedom, and uncertainty gives way to unbreakable hope. It has been called heartbeat of the gospel—the place where law gives way to Spirit, condemnation gives way to freedom, and fear gives way to unshakeable hope. When Paul wrote to the believers in Rome, he had just walked

them through some hard terrain. He showed them their guilt (chapters 1–3), their justification by faith alone (chapters 3–4), their peace with God (chapter 5), their union with Christ (chapter 6), and their struggle with indwelling sin (chapter 7). By the time they reached chapter 8, they were exhausted, convicted, and wondering: "*Can I really live this Christian life? Will I make it? Does God's love truly hold?*"

And then Paul wrote eight words that have echoed through the centuries, eight words that should be written over every believer's heart:

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)

Let's unpack what that means for us today as we face our anxiety, our guilt, our suffering, our doubts, and our hope.

1. The Verdict That Changes Everything **No Condemnation**

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)

Let that sink in: **NO CONDEMNATION.**

Not "less condemnation." Not "probation." Not "maybe, if you behave."

NO CONDEMNATION.

Why? Because "*the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death*" (v. 2).

The law—God's holy standard—could diagnose your disease but could not cure it. It could show you your sin but could not save you from it. But what the law could not do, God did. He sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, and He condemned sin in the flesh (v. 3).

Let me say that again: Jesus paid our sin debt so that God would not have to condemn you. At the cross, the gavel fell—but it fell on Jesus. The sentence was carried out—but Jesus bore it. And now, for everyone who is in Christ Jesus, the courtroom is empty. The case is closed. The Judge has declared you righteous - Justified.

Doctrinal Point #1: Justification is a legal verdict, not a feeling. You may not *feel* forgiven on a given morning. You may wake up with guilt, shame, or regret. But your feelings do not determine your standing before God. The verdict does. And the verdict, for those in Christ, is **not guilty**.

Practical Application: When the accuser whispers, "*You're not good enough,*" you answer, "*I know. That's why Jesus died for me, and I plead the blood of Jesus.*" When guilt rises, Remember Romans 8:1b - "***There is therefore now no condemnation.***" Write it on your mirror. Memorize it. Let it silence the lies.

Imprint Romans 8:1 in your soul:

"There is therefore now no condemnation."

2. The Power That Leads us to Holiness Life in the Spirit

God's verdict of **No Condemnation** is not where our story ends—it's just the beginning.

God did not declare you righteous so you could stay the same. He declared you righteous so you could be transformed.

Listen: "***For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death***" (v. 2). You are no longer slaves to sin. You are no longer under the dominion of the flesh. You have been set free—not to do whatever you want, but to do what you were created to do: walk according to the Spirit.

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit" (v. 5). This is not about trying harder. This is about **where you set your mind**. What do you feed on? What do you dwell on? What do you return to again and again?

To set the mind on the flesh is death—spiritual deadness, emptiness, futility. But to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:9-11...⁹ *But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to Him at all.)*

¹⁰ And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Doctrinal Point #2: Sanctification is Spirit-empowered, not self-achieved.

You cannot live the Christian life in your own strength. You need the Spirit of God dwelling in you, leading you, empowering you.

And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you (v. 11).

The same power that raised Jesus from the grave is at work in you. Let that sink in.

Practical Application: Stop trying to work your way into holiness. Start each day by praying, "*Holy Spirit, I cannot do this without You. Lead me. Empower me. Help me set my mind on You.*" When temptation comes, cry out to the Spirit. When you fall, confess quickly and return to the Spirit. You are not alone in this fight.

3. The Identity That Anchors Us: Children of God (12-17)
Romans 8:14-17...¹⁴ *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering.*

You are not God's employee.

You are not a spiritual orphan.

You are His child.

The Spirit Himself testifies that you belong.

Doctrinal Point No. 3:

Adoption secures your identity and inheritance.

You are not trying to earn your way into God's family. You belong. Your inheritance is secure - not because of your performance, but because of Christ's finished work.

Practical Application: When you feel like an outsider, when you doubt your salvation, when you wonder if God really loves you—remember: the Spirit testifies that you are God's child. You can call Him "*Abba.*" You can come boldly. You can rest in His love. We need to teach our students and children this. Teach them that they are not just "church kids"—they are, if they trust Christ, they are '**children of God**'. That identity will anchor them when the world tries to tell them who they are.

4. The Hope of Glory That Sustains Us Purpose in Suffering (vs. 18-30)

Being a child of God does not mean life will be easy. Paul writes, *"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."* (v. 18)

Realistically, we understand and experience that suffering is part of the Christian life. I know that's not popular in our day. Many preachers promise health, wealth, and comfort if you just have enough faith. But Paul records what the reality is... he was beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, imprisoned, and eventually martyred. Paul wrote in vs 18...

"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" ..

Do you believe that? Do you really believe that the glory coming is so great that your present suffering—your cancer, your loneliness, your financial stress, your broken marriage, your prodigal child—will pale in comparison? The whole creation is groaning, waiting for the redemption of our bodies (vv. 19–23). You groan too. You groan under the weight of a broken world, a broken body, a broken heart. But your groaning is not hopeless. It is the groaning like that of a woman in labor—painful, but pointing to new life.

Here's the beautiful part found in vs. 26:

"the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words". (vs. 26)

When you are so broken you cannot even form a sentence in prayer, the Spirit prays for you.

When all you can do is sigh or weep, the Spirit translates that into intercession before the throne of God.

Doctrinal Point #4: God's sovereignty works all things for our good.

Romans 8:28... *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose".*

Not *some* things. Not *most* things.

All things.

Even the hard things. Even the things that make no sense. God is weaving them into a tapestry of grace.

Practical Application: When suffering comes—and it will—do not despair. Do not assume God has abandoned you. Instead, ask: *"How is God using this to conform me to the image of His Son?"* Trust that He is working, even when you cannot see it. And when you cannot pray, let the Spirit pray for you.

5. The Love That Cannot Be Broken Secure In His Embrace (31-39)

Now we come to the crescendo. I want you to hear this deep down in your soul:

"What then shall we say to these things?

If God is for us, who can be against us?" (v. 31)
Think about that. The Creator of the universe, the Judge of all the earth, the Holy One of Israel—**He is for you.** Not neutral. Not indifferent.
For you.

How do we know?

Vs. 32. "He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?"

If God was willing to give His most precious treasure—His Son—for you, do you think He will withhold anything you truly need?

Listen to these powerful words in 8:33,34...

³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

Do you hear what I'm saying? The courtroom is closed. The accuser has no case.

Jesus is not only your Savior—He is your Advocate, your Intercessor, your Defense Attorney. And He never loses.

Romans 8:35.... *Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?...³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For Your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep."³⁷)* (Ps. 44:22)

Consider this list of human fears: cancer, bankruptcy, divorce, depression, rejection, failure, death. Can any of those separate you from the love of Christ?

No. Why...Because God says so...

³⁷ No, despite all these things, we are more than conquerors through Christ Who loves us.³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Doctrinal Point #5: The security of the believer is anchored in God’s unstoppable love, not in the strength of our own grip or works.

Because our salvation is secured by the unchanging love and power of God, we can rest assured that nothing in all creation can separate us from His saving embrace. Our confidence is not in our ability to hold on to God, but in His unwavering commitment to hold on to us. We do not hold onto God. God holds onto us, and His grip is unbreakable.

WE ARE SECURE IN HIS EMBRACE!

Practical Application: When you doubt, when you stumble, when you feel distant from God—remember:

Nothing Can Separate You From His Love.
Not Your Failure. Not Your Doubts. Nothing.

And church, this is the assurance we need to preach to one another. When a brother or sister is struggling, remind them: **Romans 8:39**...*No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

What does it mean to live as a Romans 8 church?

1. Live in the freedom of no condemnation.
Rest in God’s approval.
2. Walk by the Spirit, not the flesh.
Feed your soul with Scripture, prayer, worship, and fellowship.
3. Embrace your identity as God’s child.
You are defined by your adoption, not your past.
4. Endure present suffering based on eternal Hope of Glory.
Present suffering is not worth comparing with future glory.
5. Stand faith-firm in God’s unbreakable love.
Preach this to your own soul and to one another.

KEY POINT: In order to truly experience this assurance, you have to be a born-again believer in Christ.

**When the world asks,
“How can you have such hope?”—
answer with Romans 8.
The Unstoppable Love of God is
Our Unshakable Foundation of Faith.**

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY,
NOW & FOREVER. AMEN.**

Chapter 8 of Romans follows:

Romans 8:1-39... ¹So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature, So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit. ⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. ⁹ But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) ¹⁰ And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. ¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the

Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. ¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. ²⁴ We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) ²⁶ And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. ²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹ For God knew

his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. ³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.